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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Potomac Conservancy, our donors, members and, most importantly, the 6.9 million people who live and work in the Potomac River watershed and who rely on clean drinking water. We depend on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve our members and the entire Potomac Watershed.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to raise money to fund our work. Respectfully, we ask you to consider this consequence.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Luib", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Rebecca Luib  
Director, Development Operations  
Potomac Conservancy, Inc.